

in the last four Cups for worthy causes. And I'm very grateful for that, and you should be proud of it.

You know, like all ardent golfers, I sometimes go over the top in explaining to people why golf is like life or why life ought to be more like golf. But I would like to say, as you know, I just went to Sharm al-Sheikh in Egypt to try to reach an agreement to end the violence that we've seen in the Palestinian territories in Israel for the last couple of weeks. I don't know if any of you have ever been there, but it is one of the most beautiful places on Earth, and it is exploding in development because the climate is so perfect. And I sat there for a day and a half, didn't sleep, and all our meetings were conducted on the edge of one of the most beautiful golf courses I've ever seen in my life. [Laughter] So I thought to myself, "Why am I being punished for the fact that I can't solve this problem here?"

But what it made me think of coming back here is that we all come from countries which at one time or another had significant internal strife, where people had to overcome their differences. I was very moved, when I saw Greg at the closing ceremony of the Olympics, by the incredible way that Australia not only welcomed the Olympics but used the Olympics to show the healing process that has gone on between the aboriginal people and the other citizens of Australia.

Everybody knows now that America is becoming the great melting pot of the world. And it's well to remember that the kind of understanding that you have, the idea that people play by certain rules, and if you do, everybody is treated with equal respect, is really the way the world ought to work and the kind of idea we're trying to bring to all the troubled places in the world but most importantly to the Middle East, which ironically is the home to all three of the world's great monotheistic religions and is still one of the most bedeviled places on the planet.

I hope you have a great time over the next several days. I hope that no matter who wins or who loses, that you'll show the world one more example of how our common humanity is more important than our interesting diversity. I'll look forward to seeing you tomorrow at the opening ceremony.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:50 p.m. in the Main Hall at the National Building Museum. In his remarks, he referred to Tim Finchem, commissioner, PGA Tour; Vernon Jordan, president, Robert Trent Jones Golf Club; Ken Venturi, U.S. team captain, and Peter Thomson, international team captain, President's Cup tournament; and professional golfer Greg Norman.

Remarks at the Memorial Service for Crewmembers of the U.S.S. *Cole* in Norfolk, Virginia October 18, 2000

The President. Secretary Cohen; General Reno; Secretary Danzig; General Shelton; distinguished Members of the Senate and House; Governor; Admiral Clark; Admiral Natter; Chaplain Black; Master Chief Herdt; Master Chief Hefty; the sailors of the U.S.S. *Cole*; the family members and friends; the Norfolk naval community; my fellow Americans. Today we honor our finest young people, fallen soldiers who rose to freedom's challenge. We mourn their loss, celebrate their lives, offer the love and prayers of a grateful nation to their families.

For those of us who have to speak here, we are all mindful of the limits of our poor words to lift your spirits or warm your hearts. We know that God has given us the gift of reaching our middle years. And we now have to pray for your children, your husbands, your wives, your brothers, your sisters who were taken so young. We know we will never know them as you did or remember them as you will, the first time you saw them in uniform or the last time you said goodbye.

They all had their own stories and their own dreams. We Americans have learned something

about each and every one of them over these last difficult days as their profiles, their lives, their loves, their service have been given to us. For me, I learned a little more when I met with all the families this morning.

Some follow the family tradition of Navy service; others hoped to use their service to earn a college degree. One of them had even worked for me in the White House: Richard Costelow was a technology wizard who helped to update the White House communications system for this new century.

All these very different Americans, all with their different stories, their lifelines and love ties, answered the same call of service and found themselves on the U.S.S. *Cole*, headed for the Persian Gulf, where our forces are working to keep peace and stability in a region that could explode and disrupt the entire world.

Their tragic loss reminds us that even when America is not at war, the men and women of our military still risk their lives for peace. I am quite sure history will record in great detail our triumphs in battle, but I regret that no one will ever be able to write a full account of the wars we never fought, the losses we never suffered, the tears we never shed because men and women like those who were on the U.S.S. *Cole* were standing guard for peace. We should never, ever forget that.

Today I ask all Americans just to take a moment to thank the men and women of our Armed Forces for a debt we can never repay, whose character and courage, more than even modern weapons, makes our military the strongest in the world. And in particular, I ask us to thank God today for the lives, the character, and courage of the crew of the U.S.S. *Cole*, including the wounded and especially those we lost or are missing: Hull Maintenance Technician Third Class Kenneth Eugene Clodfelter; Electronics Technician Chief Petty Officer First Class Richard Costelow; Mess Management Specialist Seaman Lakeina Monique Francis; Information Systems Technician Seaman Timothy Lee Gauna; Signalman Seaman Apprentice Cherone Louis Gunn; Seaman James Rodrick McDaniels; Engineman Second Class Mark Ian Nieto; Electronics Warfare Technician Third Class Ronald Scott Owens; Seaman Apprentice Lakiba Nicole Palmer; Engine Fireman Joshua Langdon Parlett; Fireman Apprentice Patrick Howard Roy; Electronics Warfare Technician Second Class Kevin Shawn Rux; Mess Manage-

ment Specialist Third Class Ronchester Manangan Santiago; Operations Specialist Second Class Timothy Lamont Saunders; Fireman Gary Graham Swenchonis, Jr; Ensign Andrew Triplett; Seaman Apprentice Craig Bryan Wibberley.

In the names and faces of those we lost and mourn, the world sees our Nation's greatest strength: people in uniform rooted in every race, creed, and region on the face of the Earth, yet bound together by a common commitment to freedom and a common pride in being American. That same spirit is living today as the crew of the U.S.S. *Cole* pulls together in a determined struggle to keep the determined warrior afloat.

The idea of common humanity and unity amidst diversity, so purely embodied by those we mourn today, must surely confound the minds of the hate-filled terrorists who killed them. They envy our strength without understanding the values that give us strength. For, for them, it is their way or no way—their interpretation, twisted though it may be, of a beautiful religious tradition; their political views; their racial and ethnic views—their way or no way.

Such people can take innocent life. They have caused your tears and anguish, but they can never heal or build harmony or bring people together. That is work only free, law-abiding people can do, people like the sailors of the U.S.S. *Cole*.

To those who attacked them, we say: You will not find a safe harbor. We will find you, and justice will prevail. America will not stop standing guard for peace or freedom or stability in the Middle East and around the world.

But some way, someday, people must learn the lesson of the lives of those we mourn today, of how they worked together, of how they lived together, of how they reached across all the lines that divided them and embraced their common humanity and the common values of freedom and service.

Not far from here, there is a quiet place that honors those who gave their lives in service to our country. Adorning its entrance are words from a poem by Archibald MacLeish, not only a tribute to the young we lost but a summons to those of us left behind. Listen to them.

The young no longer speak, but:

They have a silence that speaks for them at night.

They say: We were young. Remember us.

They say: We have done what we could, but until it is finished, it is not done.

They say: Our deaths are not ours; they are yours; they will mean what you make them.

They say: Whether our lives and our deaths were for peace and a new hope, we cannot say; it is you who must say this.

They say: We leave you our deaths. Give them their meaning.

The lives of the men and women we lost on the U.S.S. *Cole* meant so much to those who loved them, to all Americans, to the cause of freedom. They have given us their deaths. Let us give them their meaning: their meaning of peace and freedom, of reconciliation and love, of service, endurance, and hope. After all they have given us, we must give them their meaning.

I ask now that you join me in a moment of silence and prayer for the lost, the missing, and their grieving families.

[At this point, those gathered observed a moment of silence.]

The President. Amen.

Thank you, and may God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:38 a.m. on Pier 12. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. James S. Gilmore III of Virginia; Adm. Barry C. Black, USN, Chief of Chaplains, U.S. Navy, who gave the invocation; Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy James L. Herdt, USN; Master Chief Thomas B. Hefty, USN, U.S. Atlantic Fleet Master Chief. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Adm. Robert J. Natter, USN, Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet; Adm. Vern Clark, USN, Chief of Naval Operations; Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig; Gen. Henry H. Shelton, USA, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Secretary of Defense William Cohen. The related proclamations of October 12 and October 16 are listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks at the Opening Ceremonies of the 2000 President's Cup in Lake Manassas, Virginia

October 18, 2000

Thank you. Thank you very much, Dan. Governor, Commissioner Finchem, Captain Venturi, Captain Thomson, and the American and international teams, ladies and gentlemen, I want to begin by saying how privileged I feel to be the honorary chairman of this tournament and to be here on this magnificent fall day at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Club, where my friend Vernon Jordan and I have spent so many happy days playing golf.

As a gesture of good will, I left my clubs home today. [Laughter] Actually, I offered to play on the American team, but when I had to confess I have never broken 80 on this course—even from the white tees—I was immediately rejected, showing how much the world has changed since President Johnson said, “There’s one lesson you better learn if you want to be in politics: Never go out on a golf course and beat the President.” [Laughter] I keep pass-

ing that out, even to strangers, and no one takes it seriously anymore. [Laughter]

Let me say to all of you, I love the President’s Cup—the greatest players from around the world and here in the United States playing for sheer love of the game and competition, pride of nation, donating their winnings to their favorite charities. After this year, the four President’s Cup competitions will have raised more than \$6 million for 100 charities to fund schools and hospitals, to fight disease, to teach young people not only the skills but the sportsmanship of golf. That is the genius of the President’s Cup, and I thank all of you who are part of that.

If I might, I’d also like to say a word in my capacity as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces. I want to thank Captain Venturi and the American team members for wearing the black arm bands in honor of those who perished aboard the U.S.S. *Cole*. I spent the